

SEAFORTH PAC GENERAL MEETING

November 16, 2011

Executive in Attendance: MaryAnn Giardini, Shannon Derksen, Hark Sandhu, Zena Kwan, Siva Ramesh, Cheryl Tong

Regrets: Sandra Mankoo, Jen Mezei, Lynne Vidler, Sophie Cong, Rema Sanghera, Rhylin Bailie

Others in Attendance: Wendell Hiltz (principal), Annie Hobson, Rishma Vallani, Donna Binotto

Meeting started 7:05pm

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Wendell Hiltz

- Tennis starts next week (Nov. 21st) for 2 weeks
- Pro-d day on Monday Nov. 21st
- The 1st of 3 young people's concert will take place on Nov. 30th (1:15 pm start time). Will adjust lunch for all students that day – start a little earlier (grades 3 to 7 attend the concert). The other 2 young people's concerts are in the morning.
- Family photos have arrived, retakes occurred last week – there should be a quick turn around and hopefully the retakes will be ready next week or week after.
- Volleyball wrapping up next week
- Basketball starts after Christmas
- Santa Cup starts after tennis
- Jingle bell walk on Dec. 9th
- Christmas sing a long on Dec. 14th
- Santa breakfast on Dec. 16th
- Report cards - will come out on Dec. 15th – these reports will contain basic demographic information, attendance. There will be a note telling parents to contact their child's teacher for information about their child's progress. Superintendent says it's a requirement of the School act to send out the report cards. Wendell expects the teachers will probably send out additional information to supplement the report cards. If they don't, you are encouraged to get in touch with them to ask about your child's progress. You could do it now, you don't have to wait. Wendell is signing the reports, teachers are not. We don't have to sign and return as the office will retain a copy of what was sent.
- Dec. 19th to Jan. 2nd is Christmas vacation
- Enrolment is still 497

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Neither could be present tonight
- **Will send out the report by email ACTION ITEM (Shannon)**

PAC BUSINESS (MaryAnn Giardini for Rhylin Bailie)

- Rhylin had to travel out of town for work and sends her regrets that she could not attend this meeting
- Approval of May and October's minutes:
 - Motion to approve May's general meeting minutes: MaryAnn Giardini firsts, Zena Kwan seconds, motion carried.
 - Motion to approve October's general meeting minutes: Siva firsts, MaryAnn seconds.
- Approval to purchase additional Front Row Sound System (FRSS) for approximately \$2,500
 - The above approval would bring the total to three this year
 - Original approval in June was for \$6,000 of school wish list items, including one FRSS
 - Added second FRSS in September in addition to original items, for total to school of \$8,500
 - Request for third FRSS, bringing total to approximately \$11,000
 - Need motion to increase purchases to \$11,000 or remove items from wish list to keep total at \$8,500
 - Question from the audience: do we have enough money? Answer: yes.
 - Question: which teachers will be receiving this year: Bendo (French kindergarten), Hope (English kindergarten) & Hanson (grade 2/3 split)
 - Question: what items were on the wish list: CD player, DVD player, Blue Ray, etc. Some of the wish list stuff has been ordered. The original request/list was done in June 2011.
 - Motion to approve the purchase of a third FRSS – Siva Ramesh firsts, Rishma Vallani seconds. Vote taken: 9 of 9 present are in favour, none opposed – motion carried.
 - Latest requests for FRSS are mostly new teachers to the school.
 - Note that last year the ESL teacher requested a sound system – we didn't approve. The thinking was that the portables were going to be removed at that time– concerned about the temporary nature of the whole situation. All teachers are welcome to come forward to request.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Wendell to check which classes still need FRSS.**
- MyTiffin lunch program
 - Parents indicated desire for more hot lunch days, new meal options
 - This new program will run in addition to existing program
 - We have two months of alternate dates for the new program; Grade 7's/ Quebec trip got rest of dates (special interest group fundraising activities are the domain of school this year)

- Will decide at end of year how to proceed next year based on success of program
- Samples were provided last week
- Will be doing the new program on trial basis for about 4 months.
- At the end of the school year – at the May or June meeting we will ask for input about what kids and parents thought. We will make a decision about whether to continue.
- Question: why was Thursday picked for the new program hot lunch day? Answer: that's what worked for the committee volunteers and MyTiffin organization couldn't do Tuesdays.
- Comment: try to ensure there is way that kids remember what days they ordered hot lunch. Right now, some kids are showing up without lunches on hot lunch days because they and their parents thought they ordered hot lunch. The Quebec and Grade 7 hot lunch forms this year went out on a different day than the regular hot lunches. Recommend that for 2012/2013 that the forms all go out together to avoid confusion.
- New program will have online order form. Note: still need hard copy of the order – to ensure that the orders are accurate.
- Questions: is PAC purchasing the new computer software needed to track orders? How will online ordering will occur and how the orders can be checked and filled on the day of? How will payments be verified and collected? Is there a fee for the visa payments/online processing.
ACTION ITEM: can Rhylin please pass these questions on to the MyTiffin committee?
- Traffic Safety – we have committee co-ordinators! Huge thanks to Donna Binotto and Anne Deliyannides for coming forward!!!
 - Anne and Donna will be discussing who does what. Committee will talk to Wendell about training student volunteers.
 - Board policy says that students with proper training can be out there without direct adult supervision, but this is not the ideal situation. Policy also classifies cross walks in a couple ways – extreme hazard /considerable distance from school versus closer and less hazardous (we would obviously fall into the latter), thus do not qualify for crossing guard.
 - Question: Does the same organization still provide the training? Answer: BCAA did the training, need to check if they still do? Donna says in the past they have held the training over the lunch hour. They broke into 2 groups: 1 watches a video while the other practices the skills, then switch. The grades 7 student volunteers were trained and just need refresher. Grade 6's can be trained.
- Volunteers for Seaforth Events – we still need volunteers to please come forward to help run Sport's Day, Playground committee, Emergency Preparedness committee, and the Technical Committee.

- The money that has been earmarked for IT spending needs to be used as effectively as possible – we encourage people (new families welcome!) to come forward and help with that! Note the audit/inventory of existing IT at Seaforth has been done but not ready to present results. The plan is for Wendell to meet with the District IT person and the Technical Committee.
- Question about Sports Day and Spirit Day – has hot lunch has been given to grad committee? Answer: yes this is confirmed. Denise Hayhurst is in charge of grad fundraising. Follow-up question: will the suppliers be the same? Recommend not to try new one; best to use the existing ones. It is best to choose menu items that don't result in a lot of garbage on Sport's Day – subway and sushi are big sellers. Another idea is a combo: a personal pan pizza, juice, chips and "free" ice cream was a great seller in the past. Dairy Queen gave us a deal on the ice cream. **ACTION ITEM (Shannon): send a note about this to Denise.**
- DPAC Update – none available at this time.
- CPF Update – Siva Ramesh
 - The Burnaby chapter is suffering due to lack of members.
 - One person is running it and her child isn't even in the Burnaby school district
 - Siva has taken a role in the executive for the district
 - Benefits of being involved are huge if you apply for funding
 - For graduating students – they have social grants that we can tap into
 - The CPF will advocate for schools to keep French programs. For example, in Golden they were going to take away one of the early immersion programs – CPF advocated on behalf of parents to keep the program
 - It seems to be difficult to get parents' to join – must pay 25 dollars to join. 20 of the 25 dollars go directly to Burnaby chapter where it is then distributed to the schools.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Siva to put a note in the school newsletter. Suggestion – send out reminders about expiring memberships to help keep the membership numbers up. Send next newsletter on the 28th, have the blurb to Laura by 22nd.**
 - Question: re: the money that they were supposed to give us for carnival – \$250 – Siva gave Wendell their contact info – what happens if we can't collect? Answer: likely nothing, we will not be in deficit. At the time, we asked kids to contribute the money \$2/child so it was covered (school administered this, not PAC).

SAFE SCHOOL COMMITTEE – MaryAnn Giardini

- 1st meeting to do brainstorming occurred on Nov. 10th

- We received funding to train kids to do mentoring program but because of job action the District training has been put on hold (by the District) to next year. Best to launch this training in 2012 (launching at beginning of a school year is ideal).
- Feb 29th is pink shirt day – the plan is for the whole month of February to have smaller events leading up to a larger event at end of the month.
- Ideas for events (note the plan is to call it a kindness campaign, not anti-bullying):
- Media contest – kids could create videos, poems, art etc. Could have individual prizes or win pizza for your class.
- Chain of kindness – a visual exercise for students to encourage kindness. Each student takes a strip of paper and writes down an act of kindness they did. Link the strips to make a chain from the front to the back of the school is the goal.
- ‘Campaign of Caring’ – acknowledging a child that does something, that does a caring act. Kind of like “caught being kind” – the student would be recognized in some way, given a ticket to enter a draw for a prize?
- At the end of January assembly we will announce this February Kindness Campaign.
- With the media created the plan is to put together a book that each child has contributed to and send it home to their family.
- Also have a few different activities for teachers to use in their classroom; this may be challenging due to job action but will try.
- Pink tie-dye shirt activity for kids - could done on a Fun Friday or Tuesday to coincide with hot lunch.
- The Safe School Committee and the events are really a jumping off board to have our school building relationships within our community. We have heard of other schools that are really involved with the environment and the homeless in their community. We could give our kids exposure to being a good member of the community.
 - Comments about safe school committee – parents present support it. School buddy system is great – older kids are very kind.
 - Question: does Wendell receive complaints from parents of kids showing bullying-type behaviour? Wendell has received complaints about student conflicts. The school supports positive ways to address these issues (i.e. mediation) and sees good results.

NEW BUSINESS – ALL

- Question: is there a way to know if parents open attachments sent by email?
Answer: Wendell doesn't think so.
- Comment: is there anyway to send out an email reminder about PAC general meetings? Yes we can do that. **ACTION ITEM (Shannon/Rhylin) - send out minutes and meeting reminder in early January about a week before the meeting.**

Meeting adjourned 8:20 pm